



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Defra update on discard plans, the 2019 landing obligation, MAPs and technical conservation regulation

Content

- 1. Discard plans**
- 2. Landing obligation work**
- 3. Producer Organisations**
- 4. MAPs**
- 5. Technical conservation measures**
- 6. Committments**



Discard plans

Summary of North Western Waters & North Sea Demersal Discard Plans

- Discard Plans (Joint Recommendations) are developed by NWW and N. Sea regional groups
- Commission produce Delegated Acts based upon these - currently being finalised

Discard plans

- In general, discard plans include species / area / fishery specific:
 - High survivability exemptions
 - *De minimis* exemptions
 - Technical measures (i.e. selectivity measures)
- Exemptions are valid for 3 years, with some exceptions (1 year only) where further data is requested by STECF

Discard plans – NWW exemptions

ICES area	Survivability exemptions (with conditions)					De minimis exemptions (with conditions)							
	Nephrops	common sole	plaice	skates & rays	all species	whiting	common sole	haddock	cod	horse mackerel	mackerel		
5													
6	pots/traps/creels			All gears. Plus roadmap (focus work on data & knowledge on discard survival; measures to improve selectivity / survivability)	pots/traps/creels					bottom trawls, seines, beam trawls			
6a	otter trawls (80-110mm, ≤12nm from coast, highly selective gear options)												
7	pots/traps/creels; bottom trawls (≥100mm mesh; 70-99mm mesh + highly selective gear options)		beam trawls (+ various technical)			i.B. only applies until 31/12/19 for cuckoo ray	bottom trawls, seines (≥80mm mesh); pelagic trawls, beam trawls (80-119mm mesh)			bottom trawls, seines, beam trawls		bottom trawls, seines, beam trawls	bottom trawls, seines, beam trawls
7a													
7b													
7c													
7d			otter trawls (58nm from coast, outside nursery areas, below MCRS, 80-99mm mesh + various additional technical conditions)	i) trammel nets ii) otter trawls iii) beam trawls (+ various technical condns) - only valid until 31/12/19				i) trammel & gill nets ii) beam trawls (80-119mm mesh + increased selectivity)					
7e													
7f													
7g													
7h			beam trawls (+ various technical conditions)		beam trawls (80-119mm mesh + increased selectivity)	bottom trawls, seines, beam trawls (≥80mm mesh)							
7i													
7j													
7k													

Summary of NWW discard plan exemptions

Species, area, gear specific + additional technical conditions



all valid for 3 years



valid for 3 years – with exception(s) as detailed



all valid for 1 year



Landing obligation work

- We have been Identifying the most serious (category 3) 2019 choke risks and developing solutions to those
- We have been working with OMSs through the regional groups and also in direct discussion with the Commission
- The objective is to agree solutions ahead of December Council

Source: UK Sea Fisheries Annual Statistics



Landing obligation work

- We are continuing joint work with MMO and industry, which started at the beginning of the summer, on identifying and finding solutions to category 1 & 2 chokes
- We are considering how we use quota uplift in 2019
- We are looking at developing some guidance on the use of Interspecies Flexibility (ISF)

Source: UK Sea Fisheries Annual Statistics



Landing obligation work

- The calculation of TACs for stocks subject to the landing obligation will be different this year. De minimis and survival amounts will be taken account of in the total TAC. The survival deduction process is new and we haven't seen the details yet.
- Defra are considering whether an 'uplift' amount is to be identified and managed separately by England. We will be putting options to ministers shortly.

Source: UK Sea Fisheries Annual Statistics



Producer Organisations

UK Producer Organisations met with Defra, the DAs, the MMO and Marine Scotland in July, and covered four aspects of the landing obligation:

- 1. The role of Pos**
- 2. Analysis of choke risks and solutions**
- 3. Potential government intervention**

POs agreed to develop a code of conduct (CoC), set to agree principles for quota exchange to ensure that choke is not exacerbated.

MAPs

- After the UK has left the EU, the science-based approach established under MAPs provides a firm basis for future co-operation between the UK and the EU on the sustainable management of shared stocks.
- The latest position on the **North Sea MAP** is that it has been agreed in trilogue and we are waiting for the regulation to be formally published. TACs for 2019 will be proposed in line with exploitation rates set out in the agreed text.

MAPs

Western Waters MAP

- Early agreement and adoption of a Western Waters Multi-Annual Plan (MAP) is crucial for the UK.
- We must be able to influence the MAP's development. The UK will continue to have a strong interest in the overall status and effective long-term management of mixed demersal species, nephrops and deep sea stocks in Western Waters, when it leaves the EU.

Technical conservation measures

Regulation overhaul

- The Presidency has been ambitious to finalise this dossier, and we may be close to seeing a compromise deal for consideration.
- The last trilogue – Presidency, EP rapporteur, Commission was held on Thursday 4 October, earlier ones having resolved a good number of issues.

Technical conservation measures

Regulation overhaul

- We have yet to learn the details, but we anticipate remaining issues such as the ways of measuring progress on size selectivity and defining directed fisheries at regional level could be close to a compromise that will be acceptable to both Council and European Parliament.
- We anticipate electric pulse beam trawl is likely to be the remaining issue to resolve.
- If any emerging compromise is acceptable – the finalised dossier could be adopted and in place by the end of the year.

Committments

- The UK Government remains fully committed to ending the wasteful discarding of fish and wants to work with the industry to address this issue.
- As per the white paper we will be looking to establish a joint working party with industry and other interests to help develop future schemes to enable the implementation of the LO.



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Questions

